

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 SS-15 STR-05 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01

NEA-10 IO-13 /102 W

-----031860 021220Z /17/15

O R 020900Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3285

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

MANILA ALSO FOR ADB

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, RP

SUBJECT: REACTION TO U.S. ABSTENTION ON ADB LOAN TO DBP

1. SOME RANKING MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP (CG) MEETING HAVE INDIVIDUALLY APPROACHED MEMBERS OF USDEL TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE REASON FOR THE U.S. DIRECTOR'S ABSTENTION ON THE ADB LOAN TO THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (DBP).

2. FINANCE SECRETARY VIRATA, HEAD OF THE RP DELEGATION, WHEN TOLD THAT THE ABSTENTION RELATED TO CONCERN OVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, MUSED THAT HE THOUGH IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN FOR TECHNICAL REASONS. AFTER A LONG PAUSE VIRATA SIMPLY COMMENTED, "SO, THAT IS THE REASON." HE HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT, AND GAVE NO CLUES TO HIS FEELINGS ON THE MATTER.

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3. PABLO AUAREZ, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, DFA, ASKED IF THE ABSTENTION RELATED TO THE AQUINO CASE. TOLD THAT IT DID NOT, SUAREZ EXPRESSED DOUBT, AND WENT ON TO OFFER THE OPINION THAT THE SENTENCE AGAINST AQUINO WOULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT. HE WAS NOT AWARE AT THE TIME (NOV 30) THAT MARCOS HAD ORDERED THE TRIAL RE-OPENED. GABRIEL ITCHON, UNDER-

SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY, WAS ALSO OF THE OPINION THAT THE ACQUINO CASE WAS THE PROXIMATE CAUSE OF THE ABSTENTION. THE CASUAL RELATIONSHIP WAS SIMPLE, HE THOUGHT "LIKE SOLVING A LINEAR EQUATION."

4. PATRICK KNAPP, ADP OPERATIONS MANGER FOR THE PHILIPPINES (AND, SIGNIFICATN TO NOTE, FOR KOREA) WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE ABSTENTION FOR THE CG MEETING, NOTING THAT "TO BE CONSISTENT, IT (THE ABSTENTION) WOULD HAVE TO BE REFLECTED HERE, WOULDN'T IT?" APPARENTLY SOME MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION ALSO EXPECTED SOME MANIFESTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERN BY THE USDEL AT THIS MEETING, EVEN THOUGH USDEL HAD EARLIER INDICATED THERE WOULD BE NO SURPRISES.

5. THE MOST SPIRITED REACTION CAME FROM GERARDO SICAT, SECRETARY OF PLANNING AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, TOLD THAT THE ABSTENTION RELATED TO USG CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, SICAT SAID THAT THESE LOANS REPRESENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP RAISE PEOPLE'S INCOME AND IMPROVE THEIR LIVES. HE RECALLED THAT U.S. OFFICIALS IN THE PAST HAD CRITICIZED PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE BECAUSE PROGRESS WAS FRUSTRATED BY SO MUCH TALK AND SO LITTLE ACTION. NOW, THE GOVERNMENT WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOVING FORWARD, AND NEVER HAD SO MUCH WHICH IS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP BEEN COMPRESSED INTO SUCH A SHORT TIME. THOUGH SMILING, SICAT WAS CLEARLY UNSYMPATHETIC WITH U.S. POSITION. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 02-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: TOKYO
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TAGS: EFIN, RP, ADB
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